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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM administrator wins prestigious award" (1998). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 15667.
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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 7, 1998

Contact: Effie Koehn, foreign student and scholar services director, (406) 243-5580.

UM ADMINISTRATOR WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

MISSOULA--

The director of the Office of Foreign Student and Scholar Services at The University of Montana-Missoula has received one of the greatest honors awarded to members of her profession.

Eftychia "Effie" Koehn has been named 1997 International Educator of the Year by International Group Services/Hinchcliff International, a health insurance company for international visitors and students and U.S. study-abroad students. She received an inscribed plaque, and The University of Montana Foundation received \$3,500 in her name to be used for academic advancement.

Koehn has headed UM's Foreign Student and Scholar Services office since 1991. But her involvement with foreign students at UM goes back to 1982, when she became foreign student adviser and, soon after, foreign student affairs coordinator for the Office of Foreign Student Services, a post she held until 1991.

Her job is to guide the University in developing programs, policies and procedures related to foreign students and scholars. She also counsels students on academic, personal and financial problems, and takes primary responsibility for processing visas and related documents required for foreign students, scholars and their dependents. In recognition of her administrative skills, in 1994 she received the University's Outstanding Administrator Award.

Koehn also has devoted evenings and weekends to fostering community outreach activities, among them the Missoula International Friendship Program and the annual International Culture and Food Festival. During the past academic year she helped revive a

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support group for spouses of foreign students and scholars. To help stir interest in international issues such as peace, education and health, she regularly gives speeches about foreign cultures to schools and community organizations.

"She has commanded a leadership role on campus that has spilled over into the community where the international activities have grown because of her willingness to connect the University and the community," said Joycee Dozier, who nominated Koehn for the award. Dozier is the regional representative to NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Koehn chaired NAFSA's Region II during 1992-94.

Born in Ethiopia of Greek parents, Koehn first came to the United States as an exchange student from Pierce College in Athens to Wells College in Aurora, N.Y. She later earned master's degrees in sociology and cultural anthropology at the University of Colorado and taught sociology at UM. During her student years she experienced the challenges which she now helps foreign students at UM overcome -- homesickness, culture shock and language difficulties. Her personal touch has won affection and admiration.

"She has assisted brand-new students in the smallest thing, but her thoughtfulness has made students' experience abroad unforgettable and positive," said Mancia Ko in her letter supporting Koehn's nomination. Ko was president of UM's International Student Association during 1997-98.

Udo Fluck, a doctoral student in education, wrote, "Effie's job continues into the evening, weekends and holidays because it involves individual human beings that Effie cares about as if they were her own children."

In her letter supporting Koehn for the award, Vice President for Student Affairs Barbara Hollmann described Koehn as "a University of Montana treasure."

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